

R E M A R K S

ON THE

C A S E

OF THE HONOURABLE

Brigadier-General Ingoldsby,

IN

Relation to the late Action at

F O N T E N O Y .

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*In a LETTER from a GENTLEMAN to  
his FRIEND in the Country.*

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L O N D O N :

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*THE CASE of the Honourable Brigadier General INGOLDSBY, in relation to Mr. Dundas in the late Affair at Flanders; as it has been published in several of our News-Papers.*

THE Brigadier represents, that on the Day of the Battle, being the 30th of April, O. S. his Royal Highness sent for him early in the Morning, and told him he was to attack Six Pieces of the Enemy's Cannon, situated in the Wood; and that Capt. Forbes, Aid de Camp to Lieutenant-General Campbell, would show him the Place; who carried him to the Orchard where the Highlanders were posted, and shew'd him the Wood; some of the Officers of the Highlanders informed him, that the Enemy had Cannon at the Point of it. On the Brigadier's Return, he acquainted the Duke he had been shewn the Place, not thinking it was possible for the Person, that was sent on that Purpose, to mistake his Royal Highness's Intentions.

The Brigadier also told his Major of Brigade what was to be done.

The Duke further order'd the Brigadier, if he took the Cannon, to turn them upon the Enemy; if he could not turn them, to sail them; for which Purpose, some Gunners were order'd, and four Battalions; viz. Duroure's, Pulteney's, Lord Semples, and a Hanoverian Regiment; which latter he was to take off from a Post that lay at some Distance from the Road, and oblig'd the Brigadier to halt till that Regiment join'd him.

In Obedience to the above Order the Brigadier march'd beyond the Village into a hollow Way, where he halted, within a hundred Yards of the Wood, in order to reconnoitre; and from the Banks of which he observed, that the Enemy had a strong Detachment in the Wood, and at that juncture were marching several Parties towards it; particularly one which lay down flat in the Corn, about forty Yards from the Flank of the Wood; and others, which march'd and join'd some Squadrons on the Hill, near it.

The Brigadier finding the Enemy thus advantageously situated, sent Major Bernard to the Duke, to acquaint his Royal Highness, that he thought some Pieces of Cannon would absolutely be requisite to flank the Enemy, whilst he march'd to the Attack; which the Duke readily complied with, and immediately order'd three Six-pounders.

Soon after the Brigadier sent Captain Crawford, of Major-General Pulteney's Regiment, to acquaint the Duke with what he had observed; during which Time the Brigadier call'd the Commanding Officers together, acquainted them what he was to do, and consulted with them the properest Way to at-

tack: It was resolv'd to draw up upon the Right of the hollow Way, where there appear'd no Difficulty to hinder our March; and likewise having it in our Power to flank the Enemy as we march'd.

When the Brigadier was putting this Disposition in Execution, Capt. Crawford return'd, and immediately after the Duke came up. The Brigadier then acquainted his Royal Highness with the Observations he had made, the Cannon being then arriv'd, and on the Left of the hollow Way.

His Royal Highness then order'd the Brigadier to form on the Left of the hollow Way, the Cannon to advance and fire, and the Battalions to march and support them. And further order'd the Brigadier to keep in a direct Line with that Part of the Army that was on the Left; which Orders were immediately executed.

The Brigadier apprehends, as his Royal Highness alter'd his Disposition, and gave him fresh Orders, which Orders were punctually obey'd, that he cannot be liable to a Censure for Disobedience of Orders.

His Royal Highness some time after return'd, and order'd Lord Semples's Regiment to the Attack of the Village; which was the whole Day afterwards separated from the Brigadier's Command.

Whilst the Brigadier was marching at the Head of Duroure's Regiment, in pursuance of the Duke's last Orders, he received a Message from General Legonier by his Aid de Camp, Capt. Amburst, enquiring the Reason why he had not attack'd, according to the Orders given early in the Morning; the Brigadier answer'd, that his Royal Highness had since order'd him to march and keep in a Line with the Left of the Army.

Some Time after, the Brigadier still marching at the Head of Duroure's Regiment, Capt. Napier acquainted him, that Major-General Zalfrow was to command that Part of the Line; but the Brigadier never receiv'd any Orders from him, neither did he see him.

The Brigadier continued at the Head of Duroure's Regiment, within a hundred and fifty Paces of a Redoubt, from which he was expos'd to a continual Fire from the Beginning of the Action, which the Loss of that Regiment will make appear; and in the Attack, the Brigadier had the Misfortune to receive a Wound, which oblig'd him to be carried off.

RICHARD INGOLDSBY.







# REMARKS, &c.

*In a LETTER from a GENTLEMAN to  
his FRIEND in the Country.*

SIR,

**E**NCLOSED with this, I have the Honour to send you, *The CASE of the Honourable Brigadier General INGOLDSBY, in relation to the late Action at FONTENOT*: No doubt, Sir, the Personal Regard you have for that gallant Officer, will render this Piece extremely welcome to you; but there is a Public Interest in it, to which, I hope, you will here give me Leave to pay the Tribute of a few Reflections, such as they rise to me on this singular Fact, which, amongst many other curious ones, is destin'd to garnish the History of this glorious Period.

You must remember, Sir, how on the first News of this late wretched Affair at *Fontenoy*, the impatient Public greedily devoured the Account of it solemnly published by Authority; and with what signal Indignation the Name of General *Ingolfsby* rung through the whole Extent of the *British* Dominions: Few, in the warmth of their Passion against him, maintain'd even the Shew of Justice, in waiting for what

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might



might be alleged in his Vindication, against the oblique Charge implied in a Relation, the Authenticity of which, gave it the most forcible Impression: This unhappy Gentleman then, whilst his Wounds were yet bleeding in the Cause of \_\_\_\_\_ was the Theme of general Execution, trumpeted and balladed all over the Kingdom for having been wanting to his Duty, in a Point of so much Consequence, that the Fortune of the Day seems to have depended in a great Measure upon it: His best Friends here were out of Countenance, and durst not set their Faces to a Cause of so bad an Appearance: But whilst the General was thus given up at Home, this *authentic* Relation repasses the Sea, and with what Astonishment it was received by all in the Camp, who were Witnesses to the General's Behaviour, or knew the Posture of Things, and the Regularity of his Conduct, you are too well informed to need the Repetition of it here. But, what must have been the Concern, the Indignation, the Agony of the unfortunate suffering Party! who, conscious of his Fidelity to his Duty, sees his Name and Character so cruelly wounded in a Paper, that after having made him the Butt of all the Curses of an afflicted Public, and the Scape-Goat of the Miscarriage to his contemporary Countrymen, becomes Matter of Record, and transmits the infamating Doubt, to say no worse, to Posterity.

Prejudices, even taken up on slighter Foundations than the one in Question, yield but slowly, if at all, to After-Demonstrations, that either do not reach all who imbib'd them, or find a Resistance in the Malignity of Human Nature, which satisfied with whatever feeds it, too often rejects the Plea of injur'd Innocence: Many are too indolent or too obstinate to take up with a second Opinion: With how large then a Part of the Public must the General remain unabsolv'd of the reproachful Idea, propagated of his Conduct? Honour is the Soldier's Principle of Life and Action, and as little Traces of it as there are now visible in this degenerate Nation, at least our Armies and Fleets, one would imagine should be its peculiar Province or Nursery; but how much Respect has been had to it in both those Departments, is notorious from a Number of





of late shining Instances; and whether in the present Case, Justice enough has been done to that sacred Principle, will best appear by a Review of what the Public has hitherto seen of Reparation made to it.

Whilst then the general Attention was on the Stretch for an Explanation on this great Point, when some of the warm and sanguine here had bespoke the Trial of the Brigadier in Form, for the Breach of Orders imputed to him, and that so much Time had elapsed without any Satisfaction in it, we find a Paper advertised under the Title of *The Case of the Hon. Brigadier General Ingoldsby, &c. WITH LEAVE!* upon which I can answer for myself, and some others, that on the first Face of the Words *With Leave*, we apprehended it might be a Piece in Vindication of the General's Character, published by some of his Friends with a *Leave*; it never entered into Conception, that there was any other Leave required, or even implied in common Decency, since all Subordination, all Respect of Superiors are out of the Question with a Person under the Necessity of vindicating what it was in former Times the Fashion, to prefer to Life, one's Character with the Public; a Necessity to which every other Consideration ought to strike in Course.

The Specification then of the Authority *this Leave* is from, is an Explanation greatly wanted.

The Licenser's Office is (Thanks to the Spirit of our Ancestors!) abolish'd.

The Leave of the Government is always supposed, and need not be expressed, in this Case more especially, since it adds no Authority to the Facts stated in it; for that the Government was satisfied appears sufficiently, by it's taking no Steps in Consequence of the Necessity of enquiring formally, by what *Fatality* Orders so important were non-executed or neglected.

Much less can this *Leave* be construed to come from his R----- H-----, as it would be the height of Absurdity to imagine that the lowest Officer in the Army, much more one of such Rank and Distinction as the Brigadier, would accept of *Leave* from any General on Earth, to vindicate his Character



Order and Honour, attack'd in so severe a Manner as the Public has seen them: Even an Attestation from all the Generals in Form, would on such a solemn Occasion be no Matter of Grace or Favour, but simple Justice and Reparation due to an injur'd, worthy Officer, against whom there is not even the Appearance of Blame, if we may take for granted the Facts specified in his Defence, which there seems to be no room or Expectation of a Reply to.

Some indeed of our intrepid Matadores, who fight desperate Battles over a Dish of Coffee, and control the Field with great Serenity at a snug Distance from it, find Matter of Cavil in the General's Relation, and insist most sagaciously, that he ought to have immediately march'd to the Attack, which it appears he was first ordered upon, without reconnoitring or dispatching Major B----- to acquaint his R----- H----- with his Observations on the Enemy's Dispositions, and of his requiring six Pieces of Cannon to flank them.--- That the Brigadier consumed the Time of Action in a Consultation with the Commanding Officers, which was the properest Way for the Attack. All this, as these Cavillers assume, appears by the Brigadiers own shewing; as if any Officer detach'd on an important Command, and entrusted with the Lives of a Body of Men, as well as the Issue of the Affair, was not of Course under the Obligation of taking the exactest View possible of the Service he is sent upon, and of exploring the Difficulties and Strength of the Enemy before he engaged the Attack; perhaps it would have been much happier for the Nation if this indispensable Caution had been yet farther extended.--- It is, certainly, doing too much Honour to such Objections to take them up, but I thought it might divert you to learn that there are Heads capable of starting them.

In the mean Time, you will, no doubt, have done Justice to the sublime animal Bravery of his R----- H-----, and traced in this young Hero all the military Virtues of his glorious Sire. No Wonder to see the Fate of such an Army, untroubledly entrusted with so mature and form'd a Judgment, of which we see publish'd by Authority such staring Proofs, in that Concert of the Dispositions, that exact Intelligence, and

finely



finely govern'd *Manoeuvre*, which seem to have left nothing to Fortune, and to have bespoke the certain Issue of the Day. If he did not however absolutely command Success, he did better, my good Friend, he *deserved* it; if I may borrow a Sentiment of Mr. *Addison*.

The Moderation and dispassionate Air which runs through the whole of this *Piece*, consisting, as you will see, of simple Matters of Fact, the Truth of which appears unquestionable from the Appeal implicitly lodged, to the Persons named therein, and whose Duty it would be to refute them, if false, will doubtless have the same Effect on you, as on the impartial Public, who have received it with more Satisfaction than it is probable they would have done, such a violent Defence, as the Nature of the Accusation might have provoked, in a Person of less solid Worth and Virtue than the injur'd Party.---His Behaviour under his Disgrace shews the unwounded Dignity of his Mind, and how little he deserved it, by his Unwillingness that any Noise should be made about him, to occasion a Retirement detrimental to the Service, and that might disquiet his Prince and Country; and it is heartily to be wished that all who have Cause of Complaint, would follow this Example of Patience or Resignation, and avoid seeking to widen the public Breaches in this divided Country, by inflammatory Appeals to it on the Score of their private Grievances.---It is nobler to observe the Mean the General has done: The Public supplements such Omissions with exact Justice, and gives due Credit for what might have been, and is not, said.

In the mean Time, the Blame, thus removed from the Brigadier's Shoulders, lights *no where*, or it is to *Fatality* alone we must ascribe the ill Success of this Enterprize; which is doubtless a very great *Comfort*. Fortune then has disposed of this Event, but, we may hope, that the Experience acquired thereby to a General exquisitely capable of profiting by it, will enable him to retrieve in future the Honour of that fatal Day, in which so many gallant Men were brave in vain! The auspicious Presence of so great a Prince cannot fail of inspiring, with a thorough Ardour and Confidence, the Troops he commands; and you may safely bespeak, henceforward, a  
Success



But still suitable to the noble Spirit and Virtue with which our present Commissioners are so egregiously endowed, and which throws back such a Shadow on those *unhappy* Ministers, the glorious Reign of an *English* Queen, (when *Englishmen* and *Parsons* did not swarm in the Land as they do at present,) which a celebrated Author of those Days seems to have an Eye to in the following affecting Paragraph, that I hope you will excuse my tagging is a Citation of, with which I shall however shut up this Address, and leave you to hug yourself in the blest Comparison.

" When there is a corrupt, negligent, and profuse Administration, does any Thing go right? Is not the bad Influence of it felt from Top to Bottom? Who is there that thinks it worth his While to serve well? When the Public is exposed to Plunder, does not almost every Man forget the Duties of his Office, and employ his whole Thoughts in contriving how he may have as large a Share of the Booty as any of his Fellow-Robbers? And do not the great Thieves protect the less? In a State so disorder'd, what is there to induce Men to discharge their Duty but sometimes *Honour*, which indeed not many Years ago, " made an *English* Army in *Flanders* obedient to Discipline " and fight bravely without Cloaths, Pay, and almost without Bread; but there is more Virtue in Soldiers, inspired with true Courage, than is to be found in any other Sort of Men."

London, June 11, 1745.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant.



F I N I S.